

Committee will not seek a sequential referral or object to floor consideration of the bill text approved at your Committee markup. This decision in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdictional interests of the Foreign Affairs Committee in this bill, any subsequent amendments, or similar legislation. I request your support for the appointment of House Foreign Affairs conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

Finally, I respectfully request that you include this letter and your response in your committee report on the bill and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4909 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES,  
May 2, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I write to you concerning H.R. 4909, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, which contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ("the Committee"). The Committee recognizes the need for proceeding expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill. Therefore, I do not intend to request a sequential referral.

This waiver is conditional on our mutual understanding that my decision to forego Committee consideration of this legislation does not diminish or otherwise affect any future claim over the matters in the bill which fall within the Committee's jurisdiction, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee's jurisdictional interest will be placed into the committee report on H.R. 4909 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

I also intend to seek appointment of Committee members to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and request your support if such a request is made. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this and other matters between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,  
*Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, because it fails to support our troops serving overseas. The House Armed Services Committee reported a bill that uses a budget gimmick to circumvent funding caps Congress passed into law on a bipartisan basis, and by doing so it not only undermines the budget process, it puts our troops at risk. The bill cuts \$18 billion from what our military commanders say is needed to support our troops overseas, and shifts those funds into the base defense budget to purchase billions of dollars of weapon systems the Defense Department did not even request. Consequently, the bill provides only enough funding for the troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq through April, 2017. This would then force Congress to pass an emergency supplemental to ensure that troops who are serving in harm's way have the resources they need for the remainder of the year. We shouldn't gamble with the troops we send off to battle. They deserve predictable support for the entire year as they execute their missions, particularly in view of the dangers they face.

Representative ELLISON offered an amendment to undo part of this gimmick. His amendment cuts \$9.4 billion of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funds the bill shifted to procurement for weapons DoD didn't ask for and puts it back into operations and maintenance, where DoD requested it for overseas operations. I supported the amendment because it puts the troops first. It gives them the certainty they need while they carry out their missions. It is also what our military com-

manders say they need. Unfortunately, that amendment did not pass.

As the Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, I also have worked hard to defend the integrity of the budget process and to end the abuse of the OCO designation to circumvent budget caps. I offered a bipartisan amendment with Representative MULVANEY that attempts to help reduce this abuse in the future. The amendment codifies criteria developed by OMB to clarify when military spending should be designated as contingency operations. To provide the necessary resources for a strong military and vital domestic investments, it is imperative our budget process be transparent and deliberative. Using budget gimmicks perpetuates bad decisions, increases debt by obfuscating spending, and in this case, puts the troops at risk.

This NDAA once again abdicates Congressional responsibility to revise and update the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). The 2001 AUMF has been used to conduct a broad range of military operations across the world for the past fifteen years. Rather than act to narrowly target that authority to meet our current operational and national security requirements, Congress has continued to provide the Executive with a blank check to deploy American ground troops in many places in the Middle East and elsewhere around the globe. Representative LEE offered an amendment to force Congress to meet its constitutional obligations regarding its war powers. While I do not believe we should totally eliminate all authorities under the 2001 AUMF, I do believe we need to dramatically reduce its scope and end the grant of blank check authority to the Executive.

The NDAA should focus only on soldiers and their needs. However, Republicans have used it as a vehicle to insert inflammatory and non-germane amendments. It includes an amendment that reverses the President's Executive Order that prevents federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT employees. It removes environmental protections, impedes development of alternative fuel sources to decrease our dependence on foreign fuel, and it prevents the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

I applaud certain measures such as the 2.1 percent pay raise for armed services, research to combat the opioid epidemic that is impacting our veterans, increased funding to combat veteran homelessness, and expanding the parental leave policy for active duty service members. I remain committed to fighting for these important issues but I cannot support the unacceptable budget gimmicks and policy riders in the underlying bill.

Mr. Chair, I vote nay.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL  
ROCKY MCPHERSON

**HON. THOMAS J. ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of retired Marine Colonel Rocky McPherson, who is retiring after 50 years of service to our nation and the state of Florida.

Upon graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1966, Rocky was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United

States Marine Corps and began his military career with a ground combat tour in Vietnam. After one year as an infantry officer he transitioned into the aviation community and is the only Marine officer with both ground and aviation combat tours during the Vietnam War.

During Rocky's continued military service, he commanded the Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 121 aboard the USS *Ranger*, the Marine Air Training Support Group at Whidbey Island, Washington, and served as the Chief of Staff, III Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa, Japan. His final assignment before retiring from the Marine Corps was at Marine Corps Headquarters as the Deputy Director, Manpower Division.

Rocky then served as the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, where he oversaw the most significant expansion of state veterans' nursing homes in decades, led department efforts to support Florida's returning severely wounded service members, and spearheaded plans to design and build the Florida World War II Memorial and monument—a replica of the larger monument located here in Washington, D.C. His personal and professional dedication to improving services for Florida's veterans has made a tremendous and lasting impact on the lives of over 1.5 million veterans and their family members in Florida.

Most recently, Rocky has used his talents to advance the mission of Enterprise Florida, a public-private partnership between Florida's business and government leaders that aims to encourage economic development in the state of Florida. As the organization's Vice President for Military and Defense Programs, Rocky has worked to protect, preserve, and improve Florida's military installations, as well as the communities surrounding those bases. Rocky's unparalleled experience and knowledge of military and defense issues have made him both a leader at the national level and an invaluable resource for Governors, State Legislators, and local defense community leaders across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Colonel Rocky McPherson for the duty and honor he has consistently displayed throughout his 17 years of outstanding service to the state of Florida. We are truly better off because of his hard work, and I wish Rocky, his wife of 34 years Connie, their children Ashley, Nathan and Courtney, and their grandson, Jack all the best in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF RABBI RICHARD  
LITVAK

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of one of the most joyous and remarkable leaders that I have met in my 40 years of elective office. Rabbi Richard Litvak will retire this summer after 40 years of leadership at Temple Beth El in Aptos, California. In those years he has touched thousands of lives, nurturing their spiritual lives, counseling them in times of grief, bringing smiles in times of joy, and as a licensed family counselor, maybe even saving a few marriages. With the exception of my father, the

late Fred Farr, there is no man who I admire more for his exuberant humanity and transcendent love for all those around him.

Born in St. Joseph, Missouri, Rick grew up in a close-knit family whose social life centered around their own community's synagogue. In high school, he joined a Jewish youth group and a Mitzvah Corps program. That grounding in Reform Judaism encouraged his involvement in interfaith dialogue and Jewish social justice activism. This background led Rick to study at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. He holds an MA in Hebrew Arts and Letters and is a rabbinic member of the Chesky Institute for Judaism and Psychotherapy.

Rick first came to Temple Beth El in 1975—the same year I was sworn in as a Monterey County Supervisor—as a student rabbi, and then in 1977 became its first full time rabbi. Under his leadership, the Temple community grew steadily, from 50 families to over 500 today. He added religious programs, Jewish adult education courses, expanded religious school curriculums, a preschool, and community center activities. Rick also helped lead the development and 1990 opening of the current Temple site.

In the broader community, Rick has built a towering reputation for leadership and peace building. He elevated social action and interfaith understanding to a central calling for the Temple Beth El community; supporting its leadership in the "Out in Our Faith" movement locally and nationally. People throughout Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Bay Area appreciate Rick for the faith, leadership, and joy that he brings to many social justice causes.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in thanking Rick for his years of service. The world is an immeasurably better place for having Rick among its people. I want to say what a pleasure it has been to work with him these many years. He is such an amazing leader. So much so, that once I heard that he planned to retire, I felt compelled to follow his example and announce my own retirement from elective office. I wish Rick, his amazing wife Nancy, and their daughters Jessica and Gwen, all the best. Shalom, my friend.

IN MEMORY OF APOSTLE WILLIAM  
T. BROADOUS

**HON. TONY CÁRDENAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of a much loved community and spiritual leader, Apostle William T. Broadous, who passed away on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at the age of 71.

Apostle William T. Broadous was born on December 1, 1944 in Portland, Oregon to Dr. Hillery T. and Rosa L. Broadous, who founded Calvary Baptist Church in Pacoima in 1955.

Apostle Broadous overcame challenges throughout his life, defying the odds, going on to found schools, lead missionary trips to Africa, and be a voice for the community.

Apostle Broadous continued the strong family tradition of social justice, service and commitment to Pacoima and the San Fernando Valley.

He was a strong supporter of community empowerment programs such as the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the NAACP and the Boys and Girls Club, as well as the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Senior Center in Pacoima.

After going to school at Bishop College in Dallas, TX, and spending nine years as the Pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church and director of several community centers, Apostle Broadous returned to the Valley.

Upon his return, he joined his father at Calvary Baptist Church and embraced his new role as Pastor after his father's passing in 1982.

Apostle Broadous dedicated his life to his community and his congregation, preaching at Calvary Baptist Church up until the day of his passing.

Apostle Broadous will be sorely missed in the San Fernando Valley. He is survived by his wife, Pastor Gloria L. Broadous, his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and siblings, nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Apostle William T. Broadous. Although Apostle Broadous is no longer with us in person, his legacy will continue for generations to come.

HOUSING FOR HOMELESS  
STUDENTS ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2016*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, along with fellow Members of Congress, ERIK PAULSEN, KEITH ELLISON, and DAVE REICHERT, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to improve the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to ensure low-income families do not have to choose between stable, affordable housing and education.

The Low Income Housing Tax Credit is a highly successful tool for financing affordable housing and one of the premier examples of the government leveraging its resources in order to maximize outcomes through public-private partnerships. Unfortunately, a well-intentioned limitation called the "student rule" currently forces some of the most in-need to choose between housing and education.

The "student rule" was designed to prohibit Low Income Housing Tax Credit funds from being used to construct dormitories and to prevent college students, who often have temporarily low incomes, from utilizing resources meant for individuals and families with more serious and longer-term housing needs. Unfortunately, there are no exceptions for those who want to pursue full-time education and are truly in need of housing assistance.

Because of this, students may lose access to Low Income Housing Tax Credit-funded housing units if they go to school full-time. Alternatively, if they choose to attend school part-time in order to keep their LIHTC housing eligibility, these students may lose access to grants, loans, and scholarships that are limited to full-time students. The unintended outcome of the "student rule" is to hold back truly low-income individuals trying to obtain an education.

Our legislation adds two exceptions to the student rule; for formerly homeless youth and